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30128/32000
PATENT

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Meyers)
APPLICATION NO.: 09/652,927) Examiner: Lugo
FILED: October 31, 2000) Group Art Unit: 3627
TITLE: TEE BAFFLE FOR USE AT INLET)
OR OUTLET OF SEPTIC AND OTHER)
ON-SITE WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS)

AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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GROUP 3600

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 27, 2001, please amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On pages 15-16, please amend the carry-over paragraph to read as follows:

– In order to provide an easy-to-assemble tee baffle, the tongue-and-groove fitting is preferably a clearance fit. In the preferred embodiment, the raised tongues 54 extending along each edge 44, 48, 52 of the second mating half 40 preferably has a width of about 0.045", while the respective grooves 56 along the edges 42, 46, 50 of the first mating half 38 preferably each has a width of about 0.075". The grooves 56 are also preferably deeper, by about 0.008-0.010", than the height of the raised tongues 54. The clearance fit of the tongue-and-groove connection facilitates assembly, and also provides adequate room inside the plastic weld joint to receive a sufficient quantity of the sealant to ensure a secure bond. The pairs of mating edges 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52 cooperate to form elongated strengthening ribs 47 along the vertical axis of the tee baffle 10. Advantageously, each edge 42-52 of the two mating halves is provided with a flat elongated extension of the edge outwardly of the tongue